In the Claims

1. -8 Cancelled

9. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing a disease associated with (a) aberrant expression of Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 (SEQ ID NO. 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO. 25, SEQ ID NO: 28, respectively) and/or (b) aberrant activities or amounts of a Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide in a subject comprising:

(a) determining (a) the amount of expression of Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 and/or (b) the amount of biologically active Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide in a biological sample; and

(b) diagnosing a disease associated with (a) aberrant expression of Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 and/or (b) aberrant activities or amounts of a Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide or a risk for the development of such disease based on an altered amount of expression of Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 and/or (b) an altered amount of biologically active Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide compared to a control.

10. (Currently amended) A method for identifying a binding partner to a Futrin ~~1,~~ 2~~, 3 and/or 4~~ (SEQ ID NO. 26~~, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO. 25, SEQ ID NO: 28, respectively~~) polypeptide comprising:

(a) contacting said polypeptide with a compound to be screened; and

(b) determining ~~whether the compound affects an activity of said polypeptide or~~ whether binding of the compound to said polypeptide has occurred.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying activators/agonists or inhibitors/antagonists of a Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO. 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO. 25, SEQ ID NO: 28, respectively) comprising the steps of:

(a) incubating a candidate compound with said polypeptide;

(b) assaying a biological activity, and

(c) determining if a biological activity of said polypeptide has been altered.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying and obtaining a drug candidate for therapy of a disease associated with (a) aberrant expression of the gene encoding Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 (SEQ ID NO. 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO. 20, SEQ ID NO: 23, respectively) and/or (b) aberrant activities or amounts of Futrin l, 2, 3 and/or 4 (SEQ ID NO. 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO. 25, SEQ ID NO: 28, respectively) comprising the steps of

(a) contacting a Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide or a cell expressing said polypeptide, and optionally the corresponding ligand(s), in the presence of components capable of providing a detectable signal in response to binding to said drug candidate to be screened; and

(b) detecting presence or absence of a signal or increase of the signal generated, wherein the presence or increase of the signal is indicative for a putative drug.

13. (Withdrawn) An activator/agonist or inhibitor/antagonist of a Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO. 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO. 25, SEQ ID NO: 28, respectively) or binding partner of said polypeptide(s) obtainable by the method of claim 11.

14. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound which is capable of modulating the expression of a gene encoding futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 (SEQ ID NO. 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO. 20, SEQ ID NO: 23, respectively)or the activity of Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 (SEQ ID NO. 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO. 25, SEQ ID NO: 28, respectively) and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

15. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 14, wherein the compound stimulates expression of the gene encoding Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 (SEQ ID NO. 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO. 20, SEQ ID NO: 23, respectively)or the activity of Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO. 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO. 25, SEQ ID NO: 28, respectively).

16. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the compound is a nucleotide molecule encoding a polypeptide having a biological activity of Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or

4, a Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide, an activator/agonist or inhibitor/antagonist of a Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease associated with (a) aberrant expression of Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 and/or a gene involved into the *wnt* signal cascade and/or (b) aberrant activities or amounts of a Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 and/or polypeptide involved into the Wnt signal cascade comprising using a compound of claim 16.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the disease is a tumor or a disease of the kidneys, muscle, bones and eyes.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition for activating or inhibiting the Wnt signal cascade, the method comprising:
using a nucleotide molecule encoding a polypeptide having a biological activity of Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4, a Futrin l, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide, an activator/agonist of a Futrin 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 polypeptide or binding partner of said polypeptide(s) for the preparation of the pharmaceutical composition.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 for preparation of a composition for supporting regenerative processes.

21. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a binding partner for a Futrin 2 polypeptide that affects the activity of the polypeptde, the method comprising:

(a) contacting said Futrin 2 polypeptide with a compound to be screened; and
(b) determining if binding of the compound to the Futrin 2 has occurred thereby forming a Futrin 2/ binding partner complex; ~~whethe rthe compound effects an activity of said polypeptide or whether binding of the compound to said polypeptide has occurred~~; and
(c) assaying the Futrin 2/binding partner complex to determine if the binding partner affects the activity of the Futrin 2 polypeptide.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound is an antibody.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound inhibits the Wnt signaling activity of the futrin 2 polypeptide.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

determining the level of Futrin 2 polypeptide before and after contact with the compound to be screened.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

determining the amount of compound binding to the futrin 2 polypeptide ~~thereby providing a level of expression of futrin 2~~.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21 ~~25~~, further comprising determining the level of expression of the Futrin 2 polypeptide or comparing the binding of the Futrin 2/binding partner complex to a standard ~~wherein the level of expressed futrin 2 polypeptide is compared to a control and provides an indicator of a disease associated with aberrant expression of futrin 2.~~

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21 ~~25,~~ wherein the compound to be screened comprises a detectable signal.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the compound exhibits agonist or antagonist Wnt signaling activity.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the binding partner is further tested as a drug candidate for disorders associated with Wnt signaling.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the disorder is cancer, bone disease, eye disease, kidney disease, lipid metabolism, glucose metabolism or obesity.